

Kingston, NY - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today released the following statement in support of legislation passed in the U.S. Senate to provide \$6.9 billion in disaster relief for natural disaster victims.

"I urge Speaker Boehner to allow an up or down vote on emergency legislation already approved by the U.S. Senate to provide \$6.9 billion in disaster relief funding that would allow FEMA to provide New Yorkers with the resources they need to recover from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. The Senate bill is the only current legislation that guarantees New Yorkers in the Southern Tier, Catskills and Hudson Valley will have the federal resources they need to rebuild and recover.

"The House legislation proposed earlier this week does not provide enough funding to assure that the federal government can meet all of its obligations in response to the storms that devastated far too many New York families. Instead of using a single, simple emergency funding bill, the House scheme involves a complex set of overlapping bills that would each require a specific offset. This is a recipe for confusion, political gridlock and yet another Washington game of brinkmanship at a time when New York families, small businesses, farmers, and local governments can least afford it.

"The easiest, simplest and smartest thing to do is immediately take up the Senate bill, which provides the funding necessary to address this crisis without delay. We cannot afford to play politics with this issue."